

Item _____

Prepared by: Dottie Jones

Approved by: _____
County Attorney

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IMPOSING ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT COMPLIANCE FOR LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDING. SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER MIKE RITZ.

WHEREAS, Pending legislation regarding maintenance of effort compliance has been introduced based upon erroneous reports in which it was represented that Shelby County Government had reduced its contribution to local education funding by reducing its tax rate allocation to schools and reallocated those dollars to other operations; and

WHEREAS, Local funding to both school systems has, without exception, exceeded the required BEP local match requirements and the contributions from Shelby County have increased every year, including those years that state funding has been increased; and

WHEREAS, The attached Exhibits A and B reflect the historical tax rate allocations which have provided significant additional operational funding to both schools systems for decades; and

WHEREAS, The percentage of funding from local government for both school systems in Shelby County currently is approximately fifty (50) percent of the total general fund operations of both; and

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation would fundamentally change the current law on maintenance of effort and restrict the ability of local governments to adjust allocations to local education; and

WHEREAS, Local governments have few options to generate revenue for school funding and restricting the ability of local governments to adjust allocations to determine which revenue sources and what portion of these sources should fund education impairs the autonomy of local governments; and

WHEREAS, The state has not provided adequate authority for local governments to diversify governmental support for educational mandates as well as numerous other state and federal mandates and has limited options to respond to competing needs for resources that have equal or greater mandated funding requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE That this Board, after careful consideration, hereby requests the members of the Tennessee General Assembly to oppose legislation amending Tennessee Code Annotated §49-3-314 relative to the maintenance of effort compliance for local governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Shelby County Legislative Delegation and members of the Tennessee General Assembly be made aware of this request by copy of this resolution.

A C Wharton, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Clerk of County Commission

ADOPTED: _____